

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 596. AUTHORIZATION FOR HONORARY PROMOTION OF MASTER SERGEANT HAROLD B. PHARIS, UNITED STATES ARMY (RETIRED), TO SERGEANT MAJOR.

(a) HONORARY PROMOTION.—The honorary promotion of Master Sergeant Harold B. Pharis, United States Army (retired), to the grade of Sergeant Major is hereby authorized.

(b) ADDITIONAL BENEFITS NOT TO ACCRUE.—The honorary promotion of Harold B. Pharis pursuant to subsection (a) shall not affect the retired pay or other benefits from the United States to which Harold B. Pharis is entitled based upon his military service or affect any benefits to which any other person may become entitled based on his military service.

SA 4221. Mr. BRAUN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1064. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CRISIS AT THE SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) There were 1,300,000 illegal crossings between January, 2021, and July, 2021, across the Southwest land border of the United States.

(2) The 212,672 migrant encounters at the Southwest land border in July 2021 was a 21-year high.

(3) Noncitizens with criminal convictions are routinely encountered at ports of entry and between ports of entry on the Southwest land border.

(4) Some of the inadmissible individuals encountered at the Southwest land border are known or suspected terrorists.

(5) Transnational criminal organizations routinely move illicit drugs, counterfeit products, and trafficked humans across the Southwest land border.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the current level of illegal crossings and trafficking on the Southwest border represents a national security threat;

(2) the Department of Defense has rightly contributed personnel to aid the efforts of the United States Government to address the crisis at the Southwest border;

(3) the National Guard and active duty members of the Armed Forces are to be commended for their hard work and dedication in their response to the crisis at the Southwest land border; and

(4) border security is a matter of national security and the failure to address the crisis at the Southwest land border introduces significant risk to the people of the United States.

SA 4222. Mr. BRAUN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SHARING OF INFORMATION REGARDING SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) upon request of a member of Congress for information regarding a safety investigation conducted by the Department of Defense, not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the request, submit to the member of Congress the information requested; and

(B) not later than 30 days after the date of the completion of an investigation with respect to which the Secretary submitted information under subparagraph (A) to a member of Congress, submit to the member updated information with respect to the investigation.

(2) REDACTION.—The Secretary of Defense may not redact any information submitted under paragraph (1).

(3) FORM.—Information submitted under paragraph (1) may be submitted in classified form as the Secretary determines necessary to protect national security and the investigatory process.

(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION AMONG MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—For each safety investigation conducted by the Department of Defense that involves equipment used by more than one military department, the Secretary of Defense shall, not later than 30 days after the date of the completion of the safety investigation, ensure that information regarding the investigation is transmitted to the Secretary of each military department that uses such equipment.

SA 4223. Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. ERNST) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X of division A, add the following:

SEC. 10 ____ . SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in September 2020, the total public debt outstanding of the United States was more than \$26,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$371,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

(2) in September 2019, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was about 100 percent;

(3) leaders of the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office have testified that—

(A) the growth of the public debt is unsustainable; and

(B) Congress must undertake extensive fiscal consolidation to combat that growth;

(4) the last Federal budget surplus occurred in 2001;

(5) in fiscal year 2020, Federal tax receipts totaled \$3,420,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$6,652,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$3,132,000,000,000;

(6) since the last Federal budget surplus occurred in 2001, Congress—

(A) has failed to maintain a fiscally responsible budget; and

(B) has had to raise the debt ceiling repeatedly;

(7) the Medicare Board of Trustees projects that the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2026;

(8) the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Disability Insurance and the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Funds will be depleted in 2026 and 2031, respectively;

(9) heavy indebtedness increases the exposure of the Federal Government to interest rate risks;

(10) the credit rating of the United States was reduced by Standard and Poor's from AAA to AA+ on August 5, 2011, and has remained at that level ever since;

(11) without a targeted effort to balance the Federal budget, the credit rating of the United States will continue to fall;

(12) improvements in the business climate in populous countries, and aging populations around the world, will likely contribute to higher global interest rates;

(13) more than \$7,000,000,000,000 of Federal debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including more than \$1,000,000,000,000 of which is owned by individuals in China;

(14) China and the European Union are developing alternative payment systems to weaken the dominant position of the United States dollar as a reserve currency;

(15) rapidly increasing interest rates will squeeze all policy priorities of the United States, including defense policy and foreign policy priorities;

(16) the National Security Strategy of the United States, as of the date of enactment of this Act, highlights the need to reduce the national debt through fiscal responsibility;

(17) on April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that “any Nation that can’t keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power”;

(18) on March 6, 2018, former Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned: “Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security”;

(19) on November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned: “Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues, force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities”; and

(20) on September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned: “I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt”.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the national debt is a threat to the national security of the United States;

(2) persistent, structural deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous; and

(3) the looming fiscal crisis faced by the United States must be addressed.

SA 4224. Mr. BRAUN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study on the research programs of the Department of Defense.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Identification of all research programs of the Department.

(2) Identification of which programs identified under paragraph (1) are duplicates of each other and which programs are duplicates of programs of other Federal agencies.

(3) For each program of the Department identified under paragraph (2) that is a duplicate of another program of the Department but is carried out by a different military department or Defense Agency, identification of which military department or Defense Agency is the most appropriate entity to carry out the program.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

HONORING THE INDIVIDUALS FIGHTING AND THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE FALLEN RESPONDING TO WILDLAND FIRES DURING THE ONGOING 2021 WILDFIRE SEASON

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 436, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 436) honoring the individuals fighting and the individuals who have fallen responding to wildland fires during the ongoing 2021 wildfire season.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 436) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

VETERANS AND FAMILY INFORMATION ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2093.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2093) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PETERS. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2093) was passed.

Mr. PETERS. I further ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS A REPORT ON THE USE OF CAMERAS IN MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1510.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1510) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1510) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 410 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 410) supporting the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month to raise awareness and enhance the state of cybersecurity in the United States.